Okanagan Region

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

March, 2003

for **White Lake Grasslands** Protected Area

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Environmental Stewardship Division

White Lake Grasslands Protected Area

Forward and Approvals Page

Forward

The White Lake Basin and lands west of Vaseux Lake have long been a priority for conservation efforts in the Okanagan. Partners and programs of the inter-agency-supported South Okanagan - Similkameen Conservation Program have worked to promote the conservation of the natural heritage of this area. Scientific research, through Provincial and Federal government sponsorship, has complemented these conservation efforts. The South Okanagan - Similkameen Stewardship Program has communicated with the many adjacent, mostly rural residential and small ranch landowners in the area about conservation values.

The Nature Trust of British Columbia recently purchased two ranches in the basin and has holdings in the Vaseux Lake area, complementing the extensive holdings by the Canadian Wildlife Service. The White Lake Grasslands Protected Area lies between the two existing conservation areas, forming an important link between these areas. Another significant, adjacent landholder is the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory, contributing conservation continuity of the lands in the area. The Mahoney Lake Ecological Reserve is centrally located between the southern and northern parts of the protected area.

The White Lake Grasslands Protected Area plays an important role in the conservation of many red- and blue-listed wildlife, plants and plant communities. The protected area contributes to the Protected Areas Strategy goal for ecosystem representation by protecting significant grassland and open pine forest ecosystems.

Approvals

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Date: March 12, 2003

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Date: Mar. 31/03

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Introduction

Purpose of the Management Direction Statement

A management direction statement (MDS) provides strategic management direction for a protected area. A MDS also describes protected area values, management issues and concerns, management strategies focused on immediate priority objectives and directional statements from other planning processes. While strategies may be identified in the MDS, the development and implementation of these strategies is subject to funding. In addition, all development associated with these strategies within the protected area is subject to the BC Parks' Impact Assessment Policy.

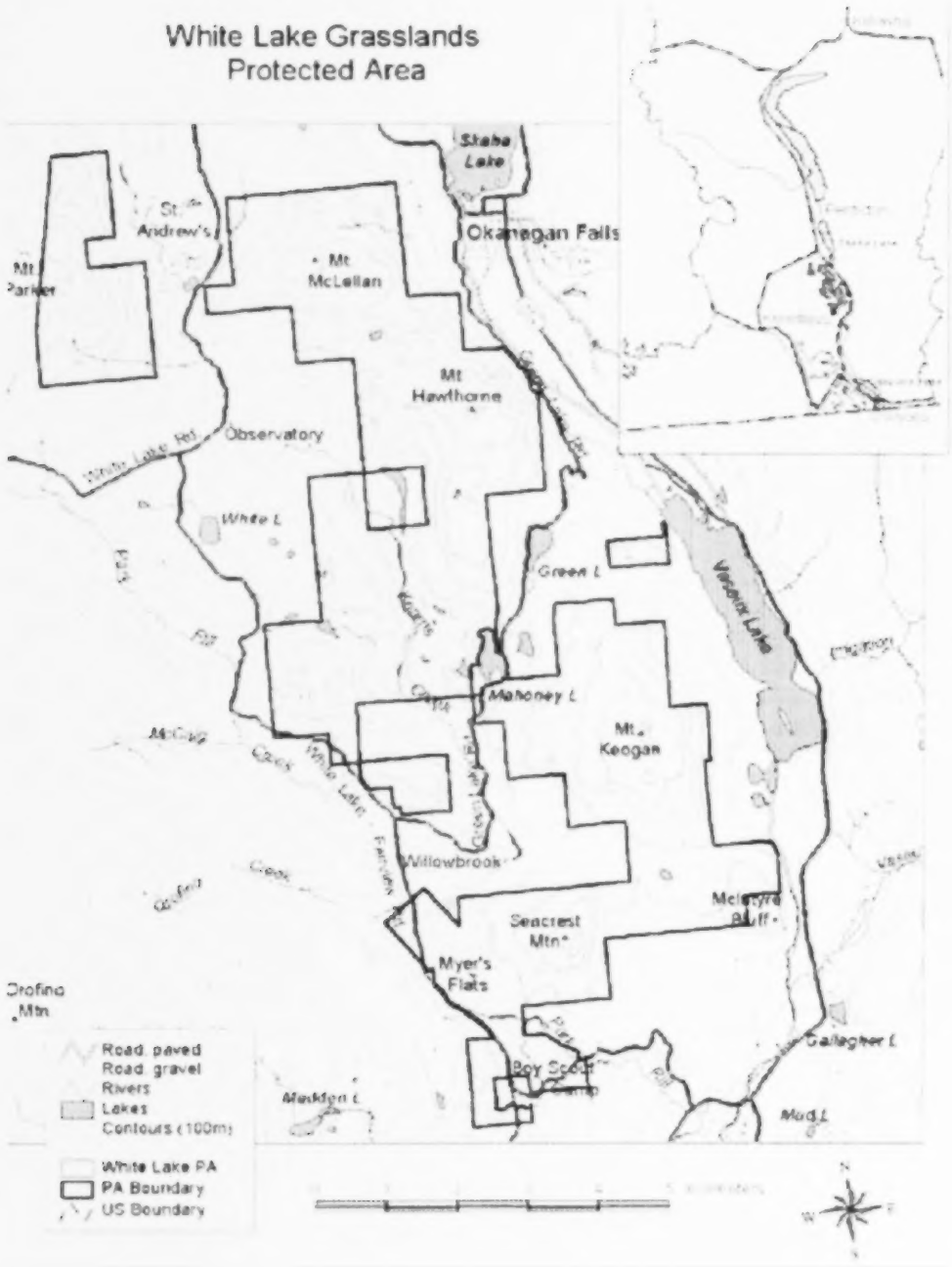
This MDS was developed through direction received from the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (OSLRMP), as well as comments from stakeholders and interest groups. The MDS is intended to provide direction and guidelines for future management of the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area.

Setting and Context

The Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) provided the framework for identifying areas that would contribute towards ecological representation within the province. As part of that strategy, the provincial government undertook many strategic level regional planning initiatives (Strategic Land Use Plans), throughout the province. The Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan concluded that a number of protected areas should be established to protect natural, cultural and recreational values. The LRMP Table used the Protected Areas Strategy as a guide in the selection of protected areas and in providing direction for their management. With respect to the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area, the OSLRMP plan recognized the primary need for conservation of its red- and blue-listed plants and animals.

The White Lake Grasslands area was recommended for protection by the OSLRMP in 2000. It was formally established as a protected area on April 18, 2001 by Order in Council under the *Environment and Land Use Act*. The *Park Act* and regulations apply as if the protected area is a Class A Provincial Park. The intent is to transfer the protected area to Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* to establish it as a Class A provincial park. As provided by the Order in Council, the portion of the protected area under tenure to BC Gas and an additional 5 metres of land adjacent to the existing right of way will remain as a protected area to allow the possible development of a second pipeline. An environmental impact process is currently reviewing BC Gas' proposal. This land will be added to the park when this matter is completed.

The approximately 3,700 hectare White Lake Grasslands Protected Area is situated 20 kilometres southwest of Penticton, west of Vaseux Lake. The entire protected area is within the South Okanagan Basin Ecosection (SOB) and is predominantly represented by the very hot, xeric (dry) Ponderosa Pine biogeoclimatic zone (PPxh1). Much of this is very open forest, similar in many ways to the shrub-steppe grassland communities. Many of the province's red- and blue-listed plants and animals are found within or near the protected area.


White Lake Grasslands
Protected Area
Okanagan Falls
Mt McLellan
Mt Hawthorne
Observatory
White L
Green L
Vaseux Lake
Mahoney L
Mt. Keogan
Willowbrook
Seacrest Mtn
Myer's Flats
Gallagher L
Mud L
Road, paved
Road, gravel
Rivers
Lakes
Contours (100m)
White Lake PA
PA Boundary
US Boundary

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- South Okanagan Basin Ecosection; elevational gradient of very hot and xeric biogeoclimatic subzones—BGxh1 (bunchgrass), PPxh1 (ponderosa pine), IDFxh1 (interior Douglas-fir)
- about 20% is grassland or shrub steppe; some of this (0.4%) is antelope-brush (red-listed; globally imperilled) (Appendix IV)

Habitat Type	BGxh1 (% of PA)	PPxh1 (% of PA)	IDFxh1 (% of PA)	Total
Grassland	0.4	12.7	0.1	13.3
Antelope-brush Habitats	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4
Sagebrush Shrub-Steppe	0.9	5.7	0.2	6.8
Rocky Habitats	0.3	19.4	2.4	22.2
Wetland	0.1	0.9	0.1	1.0
Riparian	0.1	2.8	0.0	3.0
Forest	0.2	34.2	8.8	43.2
Other	0.0	9.0	1.1	10.1
Total	2.1	85.1	12.8	100.0

Compiled from Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (1:20,000).
More detailed habitat representation is tabulated in Appendix IV

- many of the red- and blue-listed plant communities identified in the Penticton Forest District potentially occur in the protected area, depending on range condition, including grassland/shrub-steppe, dry forest and riparian ecosystems (see Appendix III)
- extensive open, dry ponderosa pine forest; most of which is mature and old-growth
- important alkali ponds for waterfowl, shorebirds, amphibians and invertebrates
- rich diversity of habitats including critical habitats for red- and blue-listed plants and animals
- ten red-listed and 20 blue-listed wildlife species have been recorded in or adjacent (within 500 metres) to the protected area; two red-listed and one blue-listed plant species have been recorded in the protected area (Appendix III); additional species are expected to occur
- south-facing, dry, rocky slopes providing critical wildlife habitats
- important mule deer winter range, and Class 1 California bighorn sheep winter range and lambing areas (currently under-utilized)
- contiguous with other conservation holdings; forms a cross valley corridor of rare ecosystems
- fossil deposits, as of yet, poorly investigated

Recreation/Tourism

- highly valued outdoor recreation and nature appreciation opportunities (hiking, casual horseback riding, cross-country skiing and some mountain biking are existing activities); valued recreation destinations include Kearns Creek (from White Lake adjacent to the Site to Mahoney Lake), Mount Hawthorne, and to the top of McIntyre and Keogan bluffs
- wildlife viewing is an important part of outdoor recreation activities; valued sites are Kearns Creek, Mahoney Lake, Rattlesnake Lake, McIntyre Bluff and Myers Flats
- hunting is valued but limited due to existing access restrictions
- opportunities exist to benefit from complementary tourism and nature appreciation activities in the area (e.g. nearby Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory, circle tours)
- terrain and private properties restrict access to much of the protected area; the most intense activity is in the vicinity of public roads

Cultural Heritage

- regionally important upland archaeological sites (8 known sites including rock shelters, pictographs, quarry/workshop, cache pit and house pits); cultural heritage values have been given an overall rating of High
- additional archaeological sites are expected to be located; more systematic archaeological surveys are required
- Okanagan First Nations traditional use is not yet documented
- the Fur Brigade Trail runs through the southern portion of the protected area (Myers Flats)
- includes early European settlements

Scientific

- long-term population research on songbirds, rare bats, amphibians and invertebrates
- history of range research and vegetation plots
- biological control agent propagation and weed treatment investigations
- part of The Nature Trust of British Columbia's Biodiversity Ranch project as White Lake Basin Range Use Plan includes pastures within the protected area
- potential for ecosystem recovery projects (e.g. fire regime reinstatement)

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- the entire protected area lies within the South Okanagan Basin (SOB) ecosection, which is the fourth smallest ecosection in the Province yet hosts the greatest number of red- and blue-listed plant and animal species; next to the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area, the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area is the second largest contributor to the protection of this ecosection, protecting 3,354 hectares or more than 1/3 of the protected area in the SOB
- consists entirely of provincially and regionally significant ecosystems

Ecosystem Classification	Province (ha)	% within OSLRMP	% within existing PAS [3]	% within OSLRMPGoal1 [3]	% Protected (existing + Goal1)	% of Protected within White Lake Grasslands	% of Total within White Lake Grasslands
Ecosection [1]							
SOB	78739	100	NA	13.02	NA	NA	5.0
Biogeoclimatic Unit [2]							
BGxh1	61913	100	0.7	4.1	4.8	2.7	0.1
PPxh1	110292	100	2.9	5.8	8.7	37.7	3.3
IDFxh1 *	241392	71	2.3	3.7	6.0	1.6	0.1

Sources of areas for calculations:
[1] Ecoregion mapping, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
[2] BEC mapping, Ministry of Forests
[3] Multiple Accounts Analysis, OSLRMP
*** includes only Protected Areas in OSLRMP**

- potentially hosts large number of rare wildlife species significant in the province (10 red-listed, 20 blue-listed); provides a continuum between two important and secured conservation areas: White Lake Basin and Vaseux-Shuttleworth array of conservation holdings
- two streams drain snow packs; Kearns Creek feeds Park Rill which eventually flows into the Okanagan River, significantly contributing to salmonid habitats and riparian areas
- offers low-intensity and low-impact recreation opportunities such as wildlife viewing and natural history interpretation
- protects Aboriginal and early settlement cultural features

Other Land Uses and Interests

Access

Access is from Highway 3A near Twin Lakes or from Highway 97 near Kaleden (White Lake Road), Okanagan Falls (Green Lake Road), or Oliver (Seacrest or Fairview roads). A number of non-status roads and trails, some used by tenure-holders and recreationalists, are present in the protected area.

Existing Tenures, Alienations and Encumbrances

All existing liens, charges, and encumbrances, other than those applying to commercial logging, mining or energy exploration and development, will continue to be authorized through issuance of park use permits (PUPs). This policy recognizes all existing *Land Act* tenures, special use permits (SUPs), water rights, trapping licences and other legal tenures and rights. Most tenure holders require motorized access into or through the protected area. Tenure holders are listed in Appendix II.

Recognized tenures in the protected area include:

- three utility corridors (1 BC Hydro transmission line, 1 Aquila Networks Canada distribution line representing 3 rights-of-ways, 1 BC Gas natural gas pipeline); the Order in Council which established the protected area, allows for the possible development of a second pipeline within the existing right of way and an additional 5 metres adjacent to the right of way
- three water licenses (1 Kearns Creek, 2 McLellan Lake)
- two easements for water lines (Myers Flats)
- two traplines
- a guide outfitter has a non-transferable sundry permit only on west side of Fairview/White Lake road that is reviewed and issued annually; the license will not be issued to another person when the present tenure holder decides to not actively guide in the area
- three ranch operations (one is TNT Biodiversity Ranch) have pastures through their Range Use Plans; range improvements (e.g. fencing, corrals, livestock water developments) are found throughout
- the National Research Council protects the radio wave reception of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory through a Notation of Interest on Crown lands (File #3403133, Reserve #59217) over the entire protected area and other adjacent lands
- the Boy Scouts of Canada have a License of Occupation on lands south of Myers Flats for their camp-over facility; their activities extend outside the license into other areas of the protected area

Untenured interests in the protected area include:

- the community of Willowbrook relies on the aquifer under Myers Flats for their domestic water
- Canadian Helicopters has a long history of using the area for mountainous helicopter training

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- the National Research Council's Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory, including future expansion on the lot north of the current facility
- livestock grazing, hobby farms, agricultural farms
- rural residential holdings and communities such as Willowbrook and St. Andrews

- a large community park at Willowbrook
- The Nature Trust of British Columbia's Biodiversity Ranch in White Lake Basin, including range license areas in the protected area
- the Canadian Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Area on the west side of Vaseux Lake

First Nations Interests

- interests of the Okanagan First Nations are not known

Other Agency Interests

- the South Okanagan - Similkameen Conservation Program has a long-standing involvement with conservation and resource management on these lands; this protected area should also be managed in close co-ordination with two partners who manage neighbouring lands - the Canadian Wildlife Service and The Nature Trust of British Columbia.
- Canadian Wildlife Service is undertaking a five-year thinning and prescribed fire project to restore white-headed woodpecker (Endangered) habitat in ponderosa pine forest; much of the protected area requires restoration to a fire-maintained ecosystem status.
- National Research Council requires that there be no disruptions to their radio reception in the basin and surrounding area
- Ministry of Forests manages existing grazing licenses, in conjunction with the Environmental Stewardship Division under a protocol agreement
- important Canadian Wildlife Service and The Nature Trust of British Columbia vegetation plots exist within this site
- South Okanagan Similkameen Weed Committee provides a venue for cooperative weed control; weed control has traditionally been undertaken through rancher initiatives and the Ministry of Forests on these lands
- Fire Protection Branch of Ministry of Forests manages fire responses and assists with prescribed burns; the agency has concerns about fire response (require a pre-attack plan) and fire prevention activities, especially in interface areas (Willowbrook).
- Ministry of Forests assists the management of forest health but there are no concerns in this protected area
- Ministry of Transportation identifies the White Lake Road as a potential highways improvement corridor within their Okanagan Valley Transportation Corridor Plan; the right-of-way through the protected area was widened to 25 metres from centre to accommodate possible future improvements

Public Stakeholder Interests

The many stakeholders are listed in Appendix II; these include tenure holders, adjacent landowners, Okanagan First Nations, utilities, and research, conservation and recreation groups. Overall interests include:

- nature conservation and ecosystem management (non-government groups and organizations)
- casual outdoor recreation (hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking)
- organized outdoor recreation (endurance course, steeplechase course, Meadowlark Festival fieldtrips)
- nature viewing (casual and club-sponsored)
- recreational hunting
- cultural and heritage appreciation
- The Nature Trust of British Columbia, a non-profit, non-government organization, holds many properties adjacent to the protected area; ongoing management integration is also required with this organization.

- all-terrain vehicle use has been concentrated on an area in the protected area known as Seacrest, although it has expanded outside this area into Myers Flats and Rattlesnake Lake; the Seacrest area is now heavily damaged from its natural condition; this activity is not consistent with protected area objectives and other natural areas in the vicinity; the OSLRMP has stated that an alternate area must be found
- fire management for ecosystem health and adjacent private holding protection
- bluebird trail nest box program conducted by the Southern Interior Bluebird Trail Society
- scientific research by universities and non-government organizations

Role of White Lake Grasslands Protected Area

The primary role of the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area is to protect red- and blue-listed wildlife species, and the habitats they rely on. These habitats include the very hot and dry grasslands and open pine forests of the protected area, as well as the associated alkali ponds, riparian areas and rock outcroppings. This protected area provides critical habitats for many red- and blue-listed plant and animal species. The feature species of this protected area is the white-headed woodpecker (red-listed; COSEWIC ranking - Endangered), which requires open stands of old-growth ponderosa pine.

The protected area complements adjacent holdings of the Canadian Wildlife Service and The Nature Trust of British Columbia These combined holdings provide a unique opportunity for a low elevation corridor of critical conservation habitats across the Okanagan Valley.

Secondary roles are to protect regionally significant archaeological sites and areas of special value for traditional First Nations uses, and to provide continued wildlife viewing, natural history interpretation and other limited-access recreation opportunities. Commanding views add to the visitor's experience.

Management Commitments and Issues

Management Direction from Previous and Ongoing Planning

Management direction was originally provided through the now-defunct Oldtimers Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP). The White Lake Basin and Vaseux areas were identified as priority conservation areas in 1989 through the South Okanagan Critical Areas Program (Erickson and Torrance 1989). The area was further recognized by the South Okanagan Conservation Strategy (Hlady 1990) and a summary of the basin's values, condition, issues and recommendations was prepared (Enns 1990). The White Lake Resource Committee was then established to explore opportunities and guide activities on Crown and private lands in the basin. This has evolved into the current White Lake Basin Biodiversity Stewardship Committee (TNT). A subsequent management plan was prepared for the area, including important conservation holdings at Vaseux (Bryan 1996).

The OSLRMP provided statements of management direction for the interim management of the protected area; these have been incorporated into the preparation of this MDS.

Management Issues

The following are over-riding management issues that have been identified through previous documentation and preliminary consultation with agencies and stakeholders:

- inadequate resource inventory of natural and cultural values to establish sensitive sites
- difficulties managing and protecting conservation values due to the fragmented and irregular shape of the protected area
- inadequate knowledge of how human activities impact conservation values
- need for increased public understanding of the conservation values and strategies
- inadequate public facilities
- inappropriate access and activities (e.g. type, intensity, location, and timing) that are incompatible with conservation objectives
- impacts to ecological integrity from non-native plants (weeds) and animals
- lack of adequate inventories, strategies, and resources to manage weeds
- lack of detailed information for appropriate fire response and management
- compatibility of activities on adjacent lands with protected area objectives
- interference with radio-quiet environment for operation of Observatory
- lack of staff resources to monitor and enforce permitted uses
- compatibility issues may exist or arise among uses of the protected area
- public desire for ongoing opportunities to participate in protected area planning
- consistent, fair, and timely management strategies to resolve new and outstanding issues on the protected area

The following table lists specific issues, by theme, requiring management action:

Theme	Issue
Protecting ecological values	• public appreciation of the conservation values of the protected area • sensitive sites are not adequately identified, including adequate inventories of rare fauna and flora • management of public motorized vehicle use • firewood cutting within the protected area • an undetermined effect of recreational access on the protected area's soils, vegetation, and wildlife • impacts of tenured uses • weeds compromising the vegetative integrity of important habitats • non-native animals and feral cats and dogs impacting conservation values • sites in need of restoration • fire suppression resulting in changed forest characteristics and high risk of natural and human-induced fire • forest encroachment into grasslands, ingress, fuel loading resulting from fire suppression • seral stage representation may not reflect natural disturbance regimes • threats from human-caused fires
Managing recreational opportunities and impacts	• lack of access planning; lack of parking and secured access to valued routes and destinations; safe, well-marked access routes that do not impact critical wildlife habitat or livestock operations; ensure private lands are adequately posted along trails and fencelines • lack of interpretive opportunities • improvements may impact protected area attributes (e.g. visual, auditory) • increased fire hazards caused by increased public use • the public use of electronic devices and two-stroke engines interferes with the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory need for uninterrupted radio reception • wildlife / human interaction hazards along hiking trails (rattlesnake, black bear)
Protecting cultural	• cultural features not adequately identified (e.g. archaeology sites, Fur Brigade

Theme	Issue
values	Trail, pioneer ranch sites)
Recognized tenures	• extent of motorized access authorized for tenured uses • concern about public not closing gates and disturbing livestock • lack of knowledge about appropriate grazing prescriptions that complement conservation objectives • unintentional trapping of red-listed wildlife (e.g. badger) • utility companies will require access to their facilities for maintenance and rehabilitation; impact of utility projects on protected area values • some uses may not be currently tenured • water consumption may be impacting critical wildlife and salmonid habitats
First Nation Involvement	• lack of First Nation involvement
Scientific	• access for ongoing and future research and inventory compatible with conservation and recreation values

Management Direction

Management Objectives and Strategies

The overall intent of this protected area is conservation of the ecological and cultural values, while maintaining low-intensity recreation and nature appreciation activities. The following over-riding management strategies are critical to the preservation of the primary values of this protected area (red- and blue-listed plants and animals, and ecosystem representation). Furthermore, these strategies are urgently required for delivery of the initial management direction and essential to future planning. Strategies are listed in order of priority.

- Implement priority access management improvements (e.g. gates, signage) intended to preserve conservation and cultural values, while allowing acceptable uses and activities.
- Work with the agencies and non-government organizations that have jurisdiction within the overall area to develop complementary land management strategies.
- Develop interim pre-attack fire plan which reflects the conservation objectives.
- Encourage awareness and support of the conservation objectives of the protected area (e.g. workshops, interpretative signage and material and press releases).
- Document existing ecological information and identify gaps. Where ecological risks are greatest, conduct ecological inventories and habitat assessments that will guide the development of management strategies.
- Conduct inventory of noxious weeds as required. Develop and implement a weed management plan, in cooperation with the South Okanagan - Similkameen Weed Committee
- Collate existing knowledge of cultural features and values, and identify information sources as well as any information gaps and inconsistencies. Consult with Okanagan First Nations to identify cultural sites and traditional values and activities. Identify existing and potential risks to these resources. Prepare management objectives to protect these interests.
- Pursue opportunities to collaborate with appropriate conservation projects and research being conducted in the protected area.
- Develop interim plans for the management of non-tenured protected area uses (e.g. recreational activities). Interim plans are required to ensure, among other things, the protection of ecological and cultural values. These plans will include guidelines to address any potential conflicts with the various uses and between uses, and involve stakeholder

consultation. Furthermore, the plans must recognize the need for adaptive management in the event of broad disturbance (e.g. wildfire).

- Conduct monitoring that can evaluate the effectiveness of management activities. Revise interim plans to reflect changes required to meet management objectives.

The following table lists specific strategies, by theme, to achieve management objectives:

Management Objectives	Strategies
Protect natural values	• As directed by the 2002 Conservation Risk Assessment, complete an inventory of rare fauna and flora • Identify areas of particular ecological importance that require special management or protection • Direct potentially harmful activity away from sensitive areas (e.g. fencing, trail management) • Increase public awareness of the purpose of the protected area through interpretative signage and promotion; participate in conservation initiatives with neighbouring conservation holdings; encourage conservation on adjacent private holdings • Monitor and enforce permitted and tenured uses in the protected area; implement an area warden program • Encourage stewardship of the protected area (e.g. monitoring) • Identify and delineate limited access areas; post signs identifying the boundaries of the protected area • Ensure recreation activities are maintained at low levels to minimize visitor impacts on conservation values • Complete vegetation and wildlife impact assessments before improving or promoting recreation opportunities • Ensure tenured users of protected area resources use best management practices to minimize impacts on red- and blue-listed plants and animals; encourage tenured users to work cooperatively with other users to promote a harmonious co-existence • Identify and maintain designated hiking trails that have been assessed and determined to be acceptable to conservation objectives of the protected area; review options to manage access into the protected area in consultation with affected users and stakeholders and implement an appropriate strategy (e.g. establish parking lot, signage, boundary markers, and/or gating) • Aggressively control weeds that impact the natural vegetation communities • Control non-native animals and feral cats and dogs • Identify and restore degraded habitats • Assess seral stage distribution and integrate natural disturbance regimes to achieve seral stage representation that complements conservation objectives • Assess forest encroachment, ingress and fuel loading; develop and implement a strategy to recover habitats to a fire-maintained condition • Prepare a fire response and fire readiness plan • Work with the adjacent government and non-government land owners to develop a coordinated and integrated plan for complementary land management
Manage recreational values	• Prohibit public, motorized access within the protected area, except on public roads; close/gate non-status roads not required • Provide self-guided interpretive kiosks at Seacrest, Willowbrook Community

Management Objectives	Strategies
	Park, and Mahoney Lake • Evaluate interpretive and other recreational opportunities at Seacrest; continue its use for tobogganing • Establish basic facilities (e.g. parking, signage, toilets, trails) where needed for low-intensity day use recreation activities in areas where there is acceptable impact to conservation values • Visitor use may require seasonal or other restrictions to minimize disturbances to wildlife, erodable trails, public safety or fire hazard • Reduce the potential for human/wildlife interactions; identify wildlife safety hazards through the development and implementation of a wildlife/human conflict strategy • Use signage, particularly in the northern part of the protected area, to discourage use of electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, two-way radios) and two-stroke engines which interfere with Observatory operation
Protect cultural heritage values	• Investigate and collate existing information on cultural heritage values; prepare Cultural Features Information Summary
Manage tenures	• Determine access requirements for tenure holders • Ensure existing utility inspection, maintenance and rehabilitation is compatible with protected area objectives • Ensure visitor use is compatible with tenure holders' rights (appropriate gating for range land) • Signage required to inform public of tenured rights and requirements • Encourage trappers to use selective techniques to avoid trapping red- or blue-listed wildlife (e.g. badger, white-tailed jackrabbit) • Pursue the relinquishment of unused water licences
Aboriginal values	• Consult with the appropriate Okanagan First Nations
Scientific	• Encourage scientific research that benefits protected area management objectives • Ongoing scientific research should be allowed to continue

Integration with Other Land Use Planning Processes

This management direction statement, future management direction statements, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP for the White Lake Grasslands Park. Management of the protected area should be co-ordinated with land management of other levels of government including First Nations and other compatible stakeholders in the area. This would be done within the confines of the *Park Act* and BC Parks' Conservation Program Policies. Increased awareness and cooperation is vital to ecosystem management.

Consultation and Future Planning

Local groups will continue to be consulted to determine promotion, information and volunteer strategies. In addition, the Environmental Stewardship Division will work with the appropriate Okanagan Nations to further determine heritage and cultural values and strategies to manage these interests. Future planning will not compromise the ecological integrity of natural or cultural values within the protected area, especially where there are species or communities that are considered at risk in the province.

Zoning Plan

The majority of White Lake Grasslands Protected Area is zoned as **Special Feature** to provide protection for red- and blue-listed plants and animals. Recreation will be confined to designated

areas. Public access to important natural or heritage areas will be restricted. The Seacrest Toboggan Hill and the Boy Scout camp is zoned **Natural Environment** to permit higher-intensity recreation opportunities (excluding motorized use). The extent of this zone is to be determined, pending an inventory of rare and sensitive species, communities, and features. Existing recreation trails and interest sites have been identified and some have been designated for low-intensity recreation, but all remain subject to review. See Appendix I for a list of acceptable uses in each zone, and a map of zoning and recreation corridors.

Appendix I
Acceptable Activities, Uses and Facilities in White Lake Grasslands Protected Area

Activity/Use/Facility	Special Features Zone	Natural Environment Zone
First Nation Traditional Uses	Y	Y
Hunting	Y	N
Fishing	n/a	n/a
Trapping	N2	N2
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N2	N2
Recreational gold panning/rock hounding	N	N
Native Plant Seed Harvest	M	M
Utility corridors	N2	N2
Communication sites	N	N
Horseback trail riding (casual)	Y	Y
Horseback trail riding (competitive)	M	M
Guided hunting	Y until existing tenure holder ceases guiding in the PA	N
Guided fishing	n/a	n/a
Guided nature tours	M	Y
Commercial recreation (facility-based)	N	N
Commercial recreation (non-facility-based)	M	Y
Backcountry huts	N	N
Water control structures (including wells and reservoirs)	N2	N
Fish stocking and enhancement	N	N
Recreational hiking (on designated trails only)	Y	Y
Recreational mountain bikes (on designated trails only)	Y	Y
Rock Climbing	N	N
Hang Gliding	N	N
Pets (under control and on designated trails only)	M	M
Camping	N	N1
Campfires	N	N1
Road access (motorized)	N1	N1
Off-road access (motorized)	N	N
Aircraft access (helicopter)	N1	N
Fire suppression (as per Fire Mgmt Plan)	Y	Y
Prescribed fire (as per Fire Mgmt Plan)	Y	Y
Fire prevention (as per Fire Mgmt Plan)	Y	Y
Noxious weed control	Y	Y
Forest Health (e.g. insect/disease control)	Y	Y
Scientific research	M	M

Y = allowed subject to conditions identified in this MDS and future management strategies

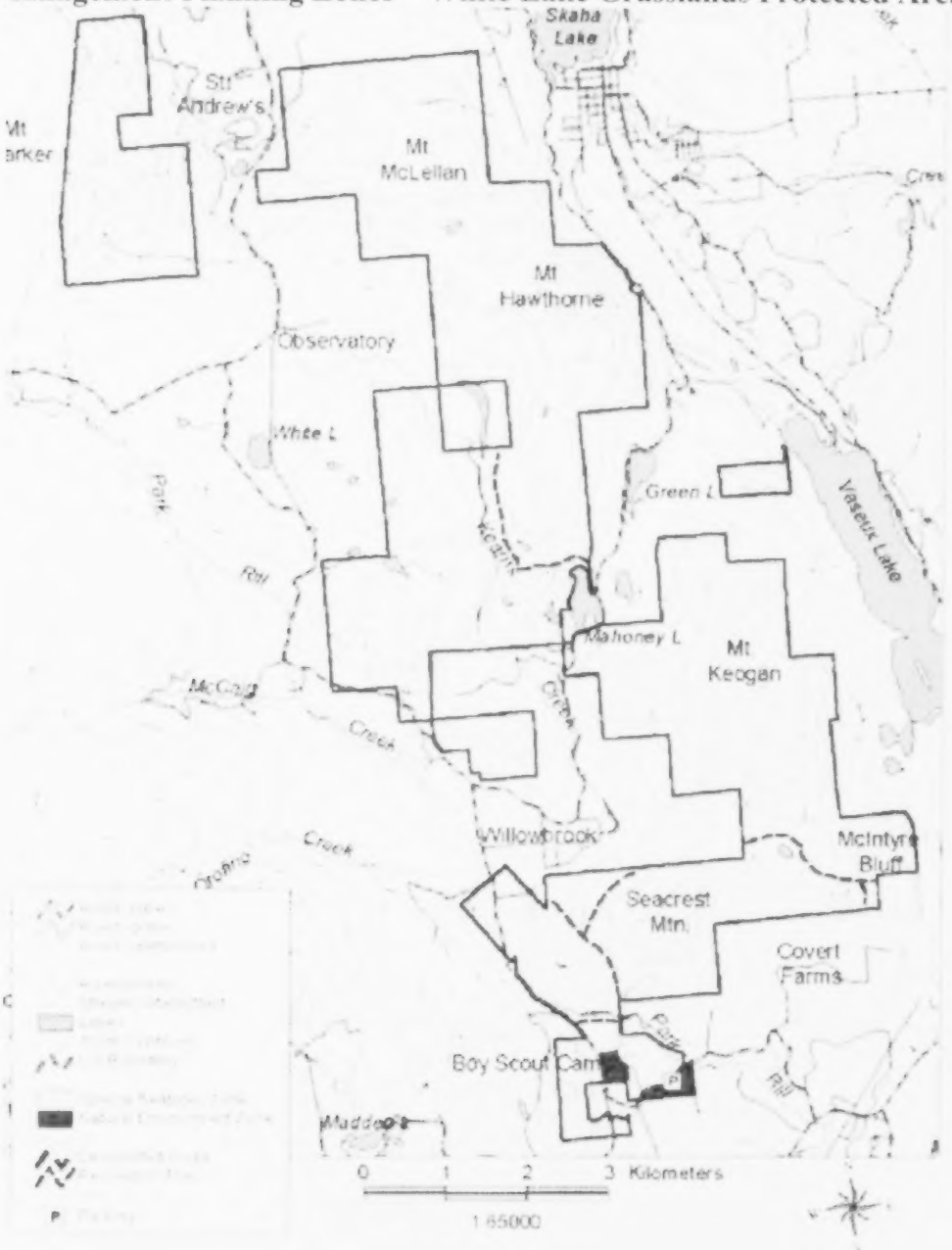
M = authorization required; may be permitted if compatible with Park objectives; may be subject to limitations established through future management strategies

N = not allowed

N1 = allowed for authorized purposes only (e.g. Environmental Stewardship Division, tenured uses)

N2 = present and allowed to continue, but not normally allowed

Management Planning Zones – White Lake Grasslands Protected Area



Appendix II
Stakeholders Contacted

Contact	Affiliation
Resource Agencies	
Bob Lincoln	ESD,WLAP
Al Hare	EPD, WLAP
Mike Watkins	EP, WLAP
Jim Mottishaw	MoF
Alex McLean	MoF
John Pethybridge	MoF
Daryl Hunt	MoF
Roger Venables	MoF
Margot Hollanger	MoF
John Parsons	MoAF
Ken McAra	MoAF
Tom Freeman	MoT
Rusty Hewitt	MoT
Dave Smith	Canadian Wildlife Service, Env Can
Tom Szalay	Town of Oliver
Joe Cardoso	RDOS – Electoral Area C
Ed Sims	RDOS – Electoral Area D
Consultative Gov. Members	
Tea Lea	WLAP
Hans Roemer	WLAP
Dennis Lloyd	MoF
Orville Dyer	ESD, WLAP
Alex McLean	MoF
Grant Furness	ESD, WLAP
Mike Hanry	ESD, WLAP
Dave Tudhope	MSRM
In-Park Tenures	
Bob Gibbard	LRMP rep., trapping
Albin Hochsteiner	guide-outfitter
Mark Quaedvleig	LRMP rep., ranching
Joe Barata	Range licence
Clifton Ranch	Range licence
Jim Hope	Range licence
George Thompson	Haynes Estate Ranch
John & Ruth Haak	adj. Landowner
Sherry Linn	Bluebird Trail Society
Richard Tallon	Boy Scouts of Canada
First Nations	
Chief Moses Louie	Lower Similkameen Band
Chief Clarence Louie	Osoyoos Band
Richard Holmes	Upper Similkameen Band
Stewart Phillip	Penticton Band

Significant Adjacent Landowners / Tenures	
Jim Hope	TNT-Biodiversity Ranch
Andrew Gray	Observatory, National Research Council
Dave Smith	National Reserve, CWS
Caesar Jordaan	Willowbrook Community
John Haak	adj. landowner; water easment
Mike Covert	adj. landowner
Len and Donna Cooke	adj. landowner
Brad Wise	adj. landowner
Hans & Christine Buchler	adj. landowner
Dr. Abbey	adj. landowner
Clifton Ranch	adj. landowner
Blake Kennedy	adj. landowner
Ray & Jennifer Stewart	adj. landowner
Geoff Neily	adj. landowner
Roy (Joanne) McDonald	adj. landowner
Research	
Pam Krannitz	CWS
Geoff Scudder	UBC
John Richardson	UBC
Rob Cannings	RBCM
Walt Klenner	MoF
Nancy Mahony	song birds - UBC
T.G. Northcote	research/scientist
Conservation	
Robert Hawes	South Okanagan-Simlkameen Conservation Program
Bruno Delesalle	Grassland Conservation Council
Clive Johnson	Okanagan-Simlkameen Parks Society
Laure Neish	South Okanagan Naturalists Club
Dick Cannings	South Okanagan Naturalists Club
Harold King	Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists Club
Don Sloan	Okanagan-Simlkameen Parks Society
Lee McFadyen	Similkameen Naturalist Club
Sportsmen Assoc.	
Joan McKay	South Okanagan-Similkameen Sportsmen's Association / BC Wildlife Federation
Ron Taylor	LRMP rep, BC Wildlife Federation
Ross Everatt	Kermeos-Cawston Sportsmen's Association
Recreation	
Juergen Hansen	LRMP rep., recreation
Brad Houston	Penticton Outdoors Club
Holley Johnson	equestrian
Roberta Carleton	equestrian
Trish Oslund	equestrian
Andrew Taggart	equestrian
Kathy Malmberg	equestrian
Geoff Neily	equestrian
Terry Burke	off-road motorized
Chris Prowse	The Bike Barn
Peter Matthews	mountain biker
Bill Archibald	Trails BC VP & route chair

Commercial and Utilities	
Barry Langeloo	BC Gas
Wayne Biggs	Westland Resource Group
Kevin Jones	Aquila Networks Canada
Barry Radies	Aquila Networks Canada
Fred Turner	BC Hydro
Jan Rustad	Canadian Helicopters

Appendix III
Red- and Blue-listed Species Recorded in or near White Lake Grasslands Protected Area

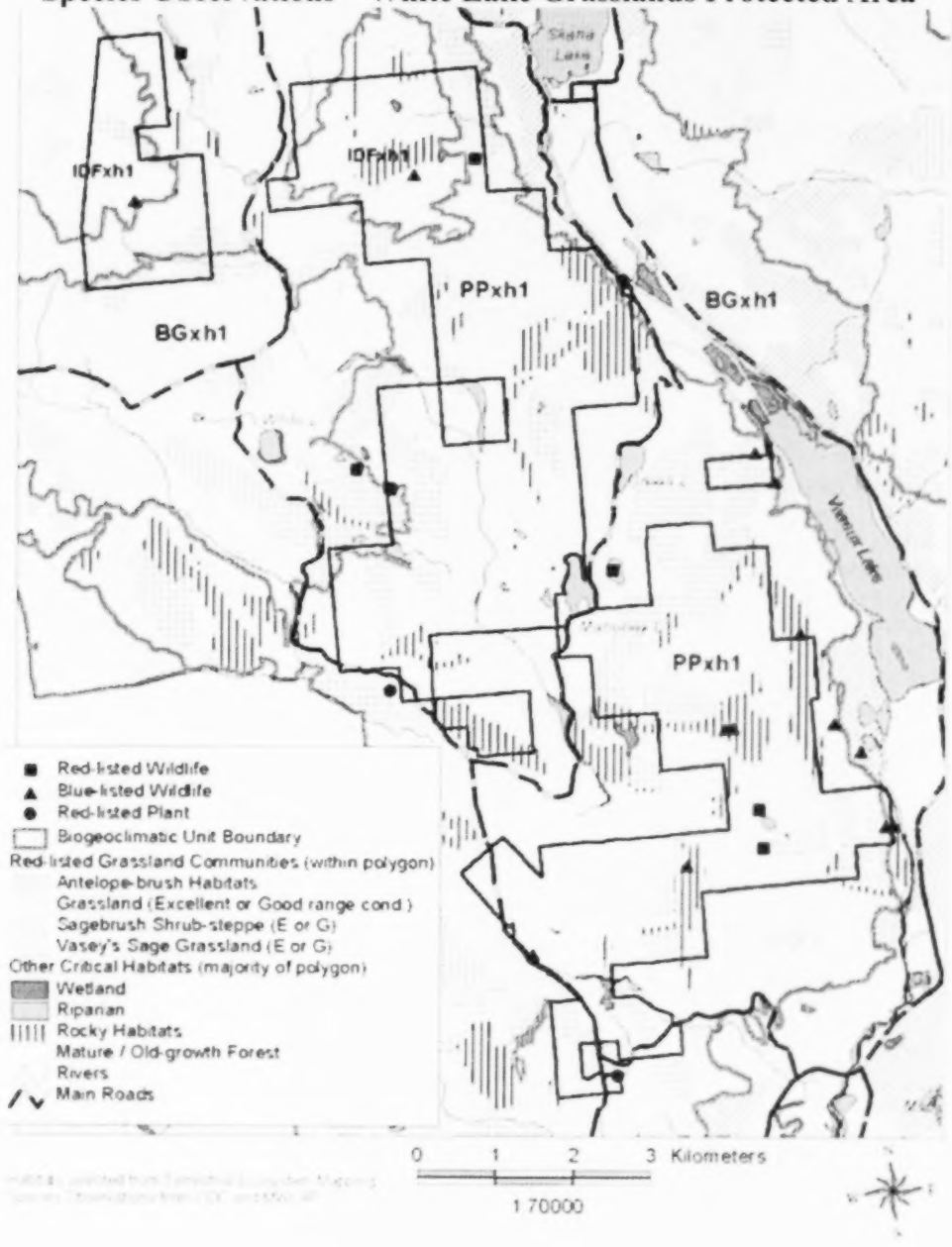
Common Name	Scientific name	Prov. Status	COSEWIC Status	Source **
AMPHIBIANS	2 species			
Great Basin Spadefoot Toad	*Spea intermontana*	Blue	Special Concern	CDC,WLAP
Tiger Salamander	*Ambystoma tigrinum*	Red		CDC,WLAP
REPTILES	5 species			
Gopher Snake	*Pituophis catenifer deserticola*	Blue		WLAP
Painted Turtle	*Chrysemys picta*	Blue		CDC,WLAP
Racer	*Coluber constrictor*	Blue		WLAP
Rubber Boa	*Charina bottae*	Blue		WLAP
Western Rattlesnake	*Crotalus viridus*	Blue		WLAP
Desert Night Snake*	*Hypseglina torquata*	Red		MJS
BIRDS	15 species			
Brewer's Sparrow	*Spizella breweri breweri*	Red		CDC
Burrowing Owl *	*Athene cunicularia*	Red	Endangered	WLAP
Canyon Wren	*Catherpes mexicanus*	Blue	Not at Risk	CDC,WLAP
Flammulated Owl	*Otus flammeolus*	Blue	Special Concern	WLAP
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodius herodius*	Blue		WLAP
Lark Sparrow *	*Chondestes grammacus*	Blue		WLAP
Lewis's Woodpecker	*Melanerpes lewis*	Blue	Special Concern	CDC
Long-billed Curlew	*Numenius americanus*	Blue	Special Concern	MJS
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus anatum*	Red		WLAP
Prairie Falcon	*Falco mexicanus*	Red		WLAP
Sage Thrasher *	*Oreoscoptes montanus*	Red	Endangered	WLAP
Sandhill Crane	*Grus canadensis*	Blue		WLAP
White-Headed Woodpecker	*Picoides albolarvatus*	Red	Endangered	CDC,WLAP
White-Throated Swift	*Aeronautes saxatalis*	Blue		CDC,WLAP
Yellow-Breasted Chat*	*Icteria virens*	Red	Endangered	WLAP
MAMMALS	8 species			
Badger	*Taxidea taxus*	Red		WLAP
California Bighorn*	*Ovis canadensis californiana*	Blue		WLAP
Fringed Myotis	*Myotis thysanodes*	Blue	Special Concern	WLAP
Nuttall's Cottontail	*Sylvilagus nuttallii*	Blue	Special Concern	WLAP
Spotted Bat	*Euderma maculatum*	Blue	Special Concern	CDC,WLAP
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	Blue		MJS
Western Harvest Mouse *	*Reithrodontomys megalotis*	Blue	Special Concern	CDC,WLAP
White-tailed Jackrabbit ?	*Lepus townsendii*	Red		MJS
INSECTS				
Vivid Dancer	*Argia vivida*	Red		CDC
Immaculate Green Hairstreak	*Callophrys affinis*	Blue		CDC
PLANTS				
Nettle-Leaved Giant-Hyssop	*Agastache urticifolia*	Red		CDC
Columbia Goldenweed	*Pyrrocoma carthamoides var carthamoides*	Red		CDC
Giant Helleborine	*Epipactis gigantea*	Blue	Special Concern	CDC

* Observation within 500m of Protected Area, but not recorded within Protected Area boundary

** WLAP = Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection wildlife sightings database (Penticton); CDC = Conservation Data Centre element occurrence report; MJS = Mike Sarell pers.obs.; RJC = Richard Cannings pers.obs.

Note: Some additional species have been documented in this protected area, but are not yet recorded by Conservation Data Centre or WLAP.

Important Ecological Areas and Red / Blue Listed Species Observations – White Lake Grasslands Protected Area



Appendix IV
Ecosystem Representation in White Lake Grasslands Protected Area

BEC / Habitat Type	% of PA		Habitats Present
BGxh1	**2.1**		
Grassland	0.4	WB	Bluebunch wheatgrass - Sandberg's bluegrass deep soil
		WS	Bluebunch wheatgrass - selaginella shallow soil
Antelope-brush Habitats	0.1	AN	Antelope-brush - needle-and-thread grass coarse-textured soils
		PA	Ponderosa pine - antelope-brush coarse-textured soil
Sagebrush Shrub-Steppe	0.9	SN	Big sagebrush - needle-and-thread grass coarse-textured soil
		SS	Big sagebrush - selaginella very shallow soil
		SW	Big sagebrush - bluebunch wheatgrass mesic
Rocky Habitats	0.3	CL	Cliff high
		RO	Rock outcrop
		TA	Talus
		SO	Saskatoon - mock-orange talus
Wetland	0.1	OW	Shallow open water
		CT	Common cattail marsh
		SB	Silverweed-bulrush meadow
Riparian	0.1	AS	Trembling aspen - common snowberry moist
		BD	Black cottonwood - red-osier dogwood floodplain
Dry Forest	0.2	PS	Ponderosa pine - selaginella shallow soil
		PW	Ponderosa pine - bluebunch wheatgrass mesic
Fields	0.0	CF	Cultivated field
		PD	Pasture, dry
Other	0.0	UR	Urban
PPxh1	**85.1**		
Grassland	12.7	WA	Bluebunch wheatgrass - arrow-leaved balsamroot deep soil
		WF	Bluebunch wheatgrass - Idaho fescue coarse-textured soil
		WJ	Bluebunch wheatgrass - junegrass mesic
		WS	Bluebunch wheatgrass - selaginella shallow soil
Antelope-brush Habitats	0.3	PA	Ponderosa pine - antelope-brush coarse-textured soil
Sagebrush Shrub-Steppe	5.7	SS	Big sagebrush - selaginella very shallow soil
Rocky Habitats	19.4	CL	Cliff high
		CM	Cliff moderate
		RO	Rock outcrop
		TA	Talus
		SO	Saskatoon - mock-orange talus
Wetland	0.9	OW	Shallow open water
		PO	Pond
		CT	Common cattail marsh
		SB	Silverweed-bulrush meadow
Riparian	2.8	AS	Trembling aspen - common snowberry moist
		BD	Water birch - red-osier dogwood swamp
		BS	Paper birch - common snowberry moist, gully
		HA	Black hawthorn copse
Dry Forest	34.2	PF	Ponderosa pine - Idaho fescue warm aspect, deep soil
		PS	Ponderosa pine - selaginella shallow soil
		PW	Ponderosa pine - bluebunch wheatgrass mesic

BEC / Habitat Type	% of PA		Habitats Present
Fields	4.4	CF	Cultivated field
		PD	Pasture, dry
		PM	Pasture, moist
Other	4.6	BA	Barren
		GP	Gravel pit
		SP	Common snowberry - pinegrass moist
		UR	Urban
IDFxh1	**12.8**		
Grassland	0.1	WS	Bluebunch wheatgrass - selaginella shallow soil
Sagebrush Shrub-Steppe	0.2	SS	Big sagebrush - selaginella very shallow soil
Rocky Habitats	2.4	CM	Cliff moderate
		RO	Rock outcrop
		TA	Talus
		SO	Saskatoon - mock-orange talus
Wetland	0.1	OW	Shallow open water
		CT	Common cattail marsh
Riparian	0.0	BD	Water birch - red-osier dogwood swamp
Forest	8.8	DP	Douglas-fir - pinegrass mesic
		DW	Douglas-fir - bluebunch wheatgrass warm aspect, deep soil
		PS	Ponderosa pine - selaginella shallow soil
Other	1.1	SP	Common snowberry - pinegrass moist

Ecosystem Representation – White Lake Grasslands Protected Area